

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 10 Line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 3 is an optical schematic of a first embodiment of an exemplary PC MOPA design in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the teachings of the present invention. The embodiment in Figure 3 uses spatial filtering in conjunction with the relay imaging optics 32, 38, 46 disposed between the stages of a multi-stage power amplifier beamline 31, 36, 42 and between the power amplifier beamline 30 and the PCM 50 to improve conjugation fidelity with a very small loss in output power or overall laser system efficiency.